

Executive Registry

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NOTE FOR: The Director

For the past year, the DCI and DDCI have broken with tradition and have accepted invitations to speak to popular gatherings across the country. The reviews and investigations of intelligence saw to it that the nature of intelligence (what it is and what it is not) is a fit topic for public discussion and we have found it can be discussed in a straightforward, low-keyed way without imparting intelligence secrets. I believe we should continue the process and I presume you agree.

As things now stand, I am scheduled to address:

- College students and alumni at a fraternity Founders' Day Session on 5 April.
- A District Conference of Rotary Clubs in Petersburg, Virginia on 15 April.
- Business executives in Pittsburgh on 19 April.
- A reserve officers meeting in Cleveland, Ohio on 20 April.
- The students of Thomas Jefferson High School of Fairfax County on 26 April.
- The students of Woodson High School of Fairfax County On 4 May.

The basic theme of my remarks on these occasions is embodied in the attached article.



E. H. Knoche

Attachment

[DET]

THE REAL WORLD OF INTELLIGENCE

Flashy triumphs of espionage, super-heroics by James Bond, clandestine activity in exotic foreign lands -- these are the kinds of intelligence activities that make great fiction and fascinating reading and constitute the dramatics that most Americans tend to associate with the world of intelligence.

At the same time, over the past several years, fiction and distortion seem to have crept into the daily news stories in our newspapers and on television, with reports about our government's intelligence activities frequently taken out of context and blown all out of proportion.

It is true that total secrecy and silence have been the hallmarks of intelligence for many years. So it's not surprising that most Americans have a dim and distorted view of what intelligence really is in the modern world.

That is why I welcome the opportunity to write a few lines for The Rainbow. A year or so ago it would not have seemed appropriate for me to do so. But we in the Central Intelligence Agency today want the American people to understand the intelligence profession and its vital role in ensuring our national security.

Modern intelligence essentially has to do with the painstaking collection and analysis of facts, the exercise of judgment on what these facts mean, and the clear and rapid presentation of accurate evaluations to our senior officials who make policy. It includes whatever can be learned or deduced about impending foreign developments as well as long-term political, economic, and military trends.

To provide the most accurate, comprehensive and objective information about national security affairs, CIA employs career people trained in nearly all fields of study--political science, history, international relations, and more than 200 other areas of specialization. We have economists, scientists, linguists, engineers, biologists--people with enough degrees in enough disciplines to staff a university.

Various offices of CIA produce foreign political, economic, scientific, technical, military, and geographic

intelligence to meet the demands of the President, the National Security Council, and other elements of the Federal government. Other offices in CIA collect the information needed to make these evaluations, much of it available from open or "unclassified" sources such as broadcasts, newspapers, and libraries. Additional information is gleaned from secret or "classified" systems of sophisticated modern technology, supplemented as required by information collected from traditional human sources--foreign "agents" working for the CIA. Much material also comes from other agencies involved in departmental intelligence--diplomatic dispatches from State, attache reports from the Defense Department, and information from the military intelligence services.

The ultimate objective is to pull it all together, to give to the highest officials of our government the facts and evaluations they need to make the judgments affecting our security, to make wise foreign policies that will insure the peace.

Modern society has also greatly affected the kinds of things U.S. intelligence must know in order to respond to the needs of our leaders. For example, CIA collects information on international terrorism in support of a high-level Government task force dealing with this menace to our security. International economic affairs are of increasing importance these days and are the subject of CIA analysis.

How did CIA come about? Before World War II we had so-called "departmental intelligence"--the War Department's military intelligence, Navy Department's naval intelligence, etc. But the information was scattered. Failure to coordinate intelligence, to look at all the pieces of the puzzle in one composite picture, led to Pearl Harbor and other setbacks. Hence the creation in 1947 of the CIA--a truly central intelligence organization.

In the past several years our agency has been charged with every offense imaginable. Too often the accusations and allegations have made the headlines; the denials and truths often did not get published or were not heard. Few people realize that it was the CIA itself, internally, which three years ago corrected its questionable activities of the past, long before the outside investigations.

This is not to criticize the right of Congress to review our activities. CIA will no doubt be the better for the examinations of intelligence carried out last year. New directives from the President, and closer oversight from the Congress, have resulted. CIA is a disciplined, loyal, and responsive agency, and it will most assuredly adjust to the new guidelines and I think it can do so without losing effectiveness.

I am frequently asked: what kind of career is there for a young person in CIA? I think my own career exemplifies at least one career track in modern intelligence. When the President nominated me to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence early this year, I had served in the Agency for 23 years without ever being in "clandestine" activity. Most of my service was with "intelligence production," or analysis. Others have preferred an "operational" career, with a focus on overseas service.

I would say the agency is an excellent career for young men and women who are intelligent, resourceful, of good character and willing to serve overseas. Even with the public criticism of the Agency, applications for positions with CIA have increased. So I think there is an understanding on the part of young people that intelligence work is a public service vital to the security of the United States.

America has, and must continue to have, an intelligence service second to none in the world. Some mistakes were made by CIA in the past, though we must be fair in recognizing that some actions carried out years ago at the height of the cold war were justified then but may not now accord with the values of the mid-1970's. In any event, we in CIA pursue our tasks now under new guidance and with the objective of achieving excellence in all our callings.

In foreign affairs, intelligence is knowledge and knowledge provides the basis for our nation's leaders to influence international events in the best interests of the United States. Our job is a never-ending quest for the most accurate information and the most objective analysis of the forces at work in the world today. Americans expect that we will have the best possible intelligence service, and we will not let them down.

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